## **BUDGET RESOLUTION/Fair Tax Treatment for At-Home Parents**

SUBJECT: Senate Concurrent Budget Resolution for fiscal years 1999-2003 . . . S.Con. Res. 86. Sessions/Enzi amendment No. 2166.

## **ACTION: AMENDMENT AGREED TO, 96-0**

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S.Con. Res. 86, the Senate Concurrent Budget Resolution for fiscal years 1999-2003, will balance the unified budget in 1998 and will run surpluses for each of the next 5 fiscal years. Both Federal spending and Federal revenues will increase 3.5 percent from fiscal year (FY) 1998 to FY 1999. All surpluses will be reserved for Social Security reform. A reserve fund will be established to allow the entire Federal share of revenues resulting from a potential tobacco settlement to be dedicated to bolstering Medicare's solvency.

The Sessions/Enzi amendment would express the sense of the Congress that the functional totals in this resolution assume:

- many families in the United States make enormous sacrifices to forego a second income in order to have a parent care for a child at home;
  - there should be no bias against at-home parents;
- parents choose many different forms of child care to meet the needs of their families, such as child care provided by an at-home parent, grandparent, aunt, uncle, neighbor, nanny, preschool, or child care center;
- any quality child care proposal should include, as a key component, financial relief for those families where there is an at-home parent; and
  - mothers and fathers who have chosen and continue to choose to be at home should be applauded for their efforts. The amendment would also make the following findings:
- studies have shown that quality child care, particularly for infants and young children, requires a sensitive, interactive, living, and consistent caregiver;
  - as most parents meet or exceed the above criteria, circumstances allowing parental care is the best form of child care;

<b>YEAS</b> (96)				NAYS (0)		NOT VOTING (4)	
<b>Republican</b> (52 or 100%)		Democrats (44 or 100%)		Republicans (0 or 0%)	Democrats (0 or 0%)	Republicans Democrats	
						(3)	(1)
Abraham Allard Ashcroft Bond Brownback Burns Campbell Chafee Coats Cochran Collins Coverdell Craig D'Amato DeWine Domenici Enzi Faircloth Frist Gorton Gramm Gramm Grams Grams Grassley Gregg Hagel Helms	Hutchinson Hutchison Jeffords Kempthorne Kyl Lott Lugar Mack McCain McConnell Murkowski Nickles Roberts Roth Santorum Sessions Shelby Smith, Bob Smith, Gordon Snowe Specter Stevens Thomas Thompson Thurmond Warner	Akaka Baucus Biden Bingaman Boxer Breaux Bryan Bumpers Byrd Cleland Conrad Daschle Dodd Dorgan Durbin Feingold Feinstein Ford Glenn Graham Harkin Hollings	Inouye Johnson Kennedy Kerrey Kerry Kohl Landrieu Lautenberg Leahy Levin Lieberman Moseley-Braun Moynihan Murray Reed Reid Robb Rockefeller Sarbanes Torricelli Wellstone Wyden			EXPLANAT 1—Official E 2—Necessari 3—Illness 4—Other  SYMBOLS: AY—Annou AN—Annou PY—Paired I	ily Absent nced Yea nced Nay Yea

VOTE NO. 49 MARCH 31, 1998

• a recent NIH study found that the greatest factor in the development of a young child is "what is happening at home and in families";

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